

1972

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

Wetland Management Office
Fergus Falls, Minnesota

1972

WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA NARRATIVE REPORT

Permanent Personnel:

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Luther J. Melby,
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Wayne A. Enquist,
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Clerk (EOD 5/1/72 - Transferred from Benson WMD)

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Jerome F. Reger, Biological Aid - 4/3/72 - 11/24/72
Miles S. Olson, Biological Aid - 4/3/72 - 6/24/72
George W. Heglund, Biological Aid - 6/5/72 - 8/23/72
Thomas J. U'Ren, Biological Aid - 7/24/72 - 11/24/72

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I. GENERAL

A. Description of Area

Waterfowl Production Areas managed from the Fergus Falls Wetland Management Office are located in Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail and Wilkin Counties in West Central Minnesota. A total of 25,757 acres contained in 181 individual management units have been acquired through fee purchase to date.

In addition to the fee purchases, 9,543 wetland acres have been protected from drainage, burning and filling through the acquisition of 326 wetland easements.

B. Status of the Acquisition Program

TABLE I. Trends in Fee and Easement Acquisition

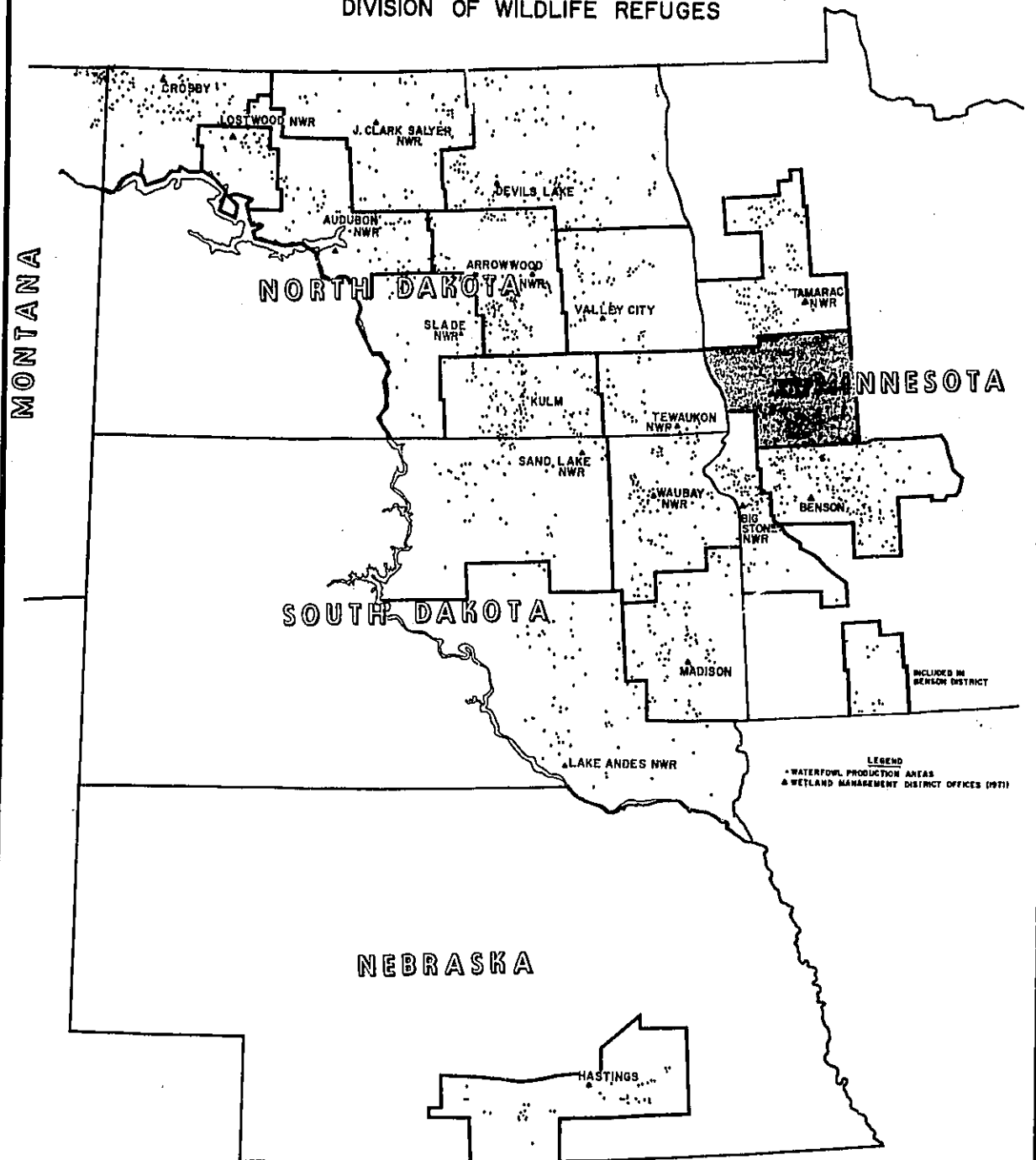
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NO. OF NEW FEE TRACTS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>NO. OF NEW EASEMENTS</u>	<u>WETLAND ACRES</u>
1962	18	701.7	0	0
1963	34	3,456.7	7	224.0
1964	58	3,906.0	25	702.5
1965	73	5,293.1	29	715.0
1966	53	2,885.9	46	1,291.0
1967	23	1,601.8	102	3,176.0
1968	26	1,788.2	50	1,540.0
1969	24	2,118.7	31	968.0
1970	31	2,207.7	29	742.0
1971	16	1,561.0	3	40.0
1972	6	236.7	4	145.0
TOTALS	362	25,757.5	326	9,543.5

TABLE 2. Status of Fee Acquisition as of December 31, 1972

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>NO. OF TRACTS*</u>	<u>NO. MGT. UNITS</u>	<u>TOTAL FEE ACRES</u>	<u>WETLAND ACRES</u>	<u>GOALS TOTAL ACRES</u>
Douglas	103	51	6,856.4	2,742.6	10,000
Grant	88	40	6,453.6	2,581.4	9,100
Otter Tail	158	84	11,374.6	4,549.8	22,000
Wilkin	13	6	1,072.9	429.2	1,320
TOTALS	362	181	25,757.5	10,303.0	42,420

* Figures from Management files of separate parcels of land, not to be confused with Realty case figures.

WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES



Fergus Falls Wetland Management District

FERGUS FALLS WETLAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

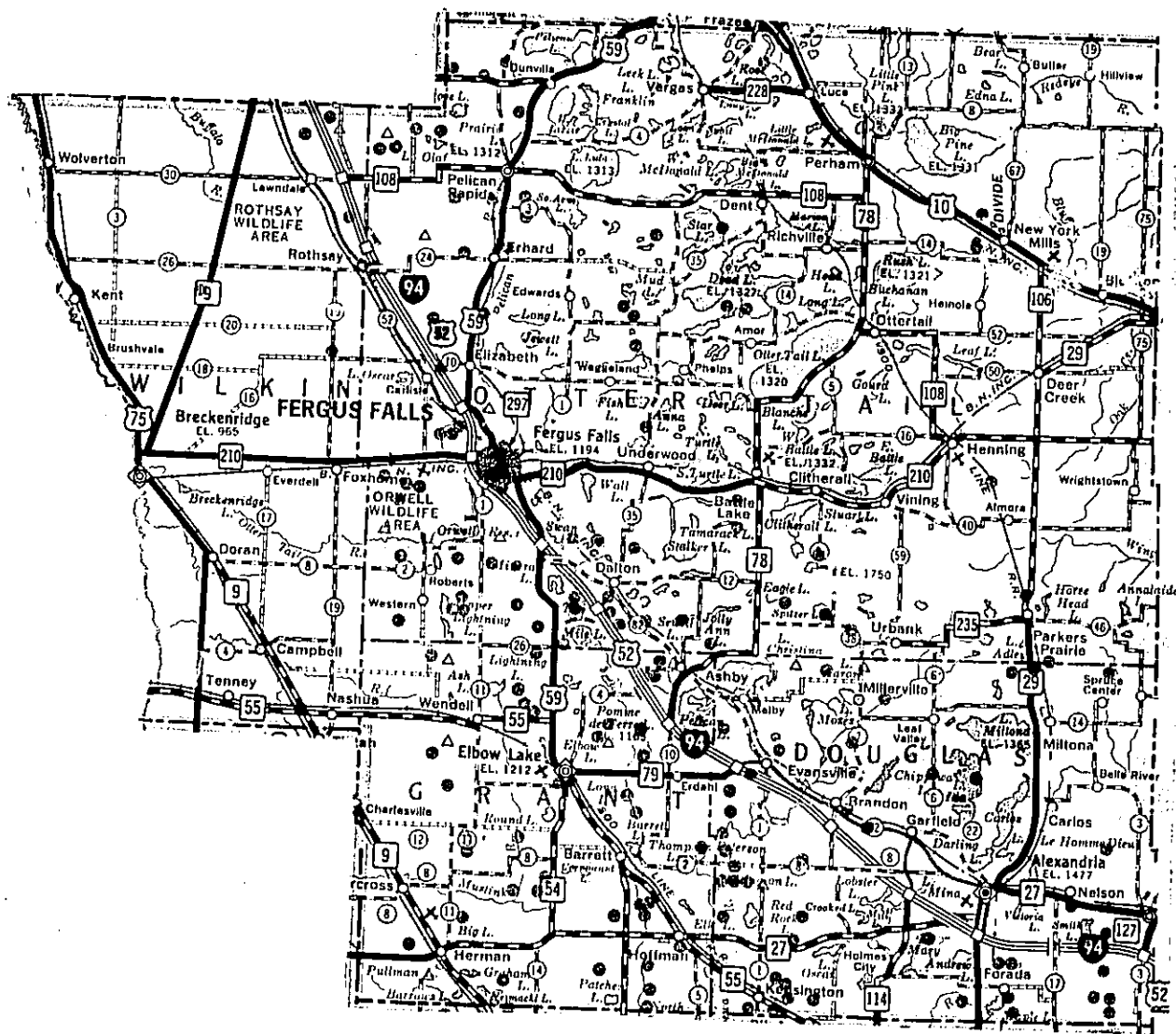


TABLE 3. Status of Easement Acquisition as of December 31, 1972

COUNTY	NO. OF EASEMENTS*	WETLAND ACRES*	TOTAL ACRES	GOALS TOTAL ACRES*
Douglas	109	3,353.0	17,863.1	37,900
Grant	40	1,144.0	5,112.5	38,000
Otter Tail	170	4,879.5	25,557.1	56,500
Wilkin	7	167.0	900.4	2,650
TOTALS	326	9,543.5	49,433.1	135,050

* From Realty records.

C. Weather Conditions

A late spring and heavy summer rain were the outstanding variations in weather from a normal year. Cool, cloudy weather and precipitation slightly above normal in March and April delayed spring work in the four county area. These conditions, combined with heavy rains in late May, caused water in area ponds to raise above normal levels and produced many small potholes in shallow depressions. Very heavy rains in late July washed out roads and bridges in portions of the four county area.



A wet year capped off by a 10" deluge in late July in the eastern part of the district. This farm is under easement and under water. It is located in the SE part of Otter Tail County. The farmer called us to see if we could solve his problem, but after checking over the situation, it was decided to let nature take its course.

Dick Tolbers - 8/25/72

WEATHER DATA

Location Alexandria, MinnesotaYear 1972

Month	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			
	Current Average	Normal Average	Highest & Date	Lowest & Date	Total (Inches)	Normal (Inches)	Snow/Elect.	
							Total	Max. Depth
January	2.0	8.1	36.0 (8)	-33 (15)	1.20	.60	14.0	19
February	5.8	11.3	35.0 (20)	-25 (7)	.72	.67	7.6	23
March	23.4	23.4	49.0 (20)	-20 (2)	2.15	1.09	13.3	31
April	39.6	41.8	72.0 (17)	15 (7)	2.35	2.28	4.4	2
May	58.9	54.3	89.0 (20)	36 (4)	5.89	3.04	0	0
June	66.1	63.7	89.0 (2)	42 (10)	2.88	4.25	0	0
July	68.5	69.9	90.0 (9)	46 (4)	7.95	3.11	0	0
August	69.2	68.4	95.0 (20)	48 (3)	2.51	3.99	0	0
September	57.0	57.5	87.0 (19)	30 (30)	.43	2.09	0	0
October	42.9	47.0	77.0 (4)	13 (19)	1.78	1.51	2.4	1
November	28.5	28.0	53.0 (5)	-2 (29)	1.22	1.12	.6	T
December	8.9	14.6	37.0 (27)	-22 (10)	1.65	.61	12.3	9
AVERAGE	39.2	40.6	95.0	-33	30.73	24.36	54.6	31

WEATHER DATA

Location Fergus Falls, MinnesotaYear 1972

		TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			
Month	Current Average	Normal Average	Highest & Date	Lowest & Date	Total (Inches)	Normal (Inches)	Snow/Sleet	
							Total	Max. Depth
January	2.9	9.2	36 (17)	-33 (15)	1.46	.77	17.1	16
February	6.8	13.2	34 (20)	-28 (7)	.71	.68	8.1	14
March	24.9	26.3	51 (19)	-17 (2)	1.50	.73	11.1	14
April	41.6	43.4	69 (15)	47 (28)	1.58	2.24	1.2	2
May	60.1	57.0	92 (17)	33 (6)	6.31	3.04	0	0
June	66.7	66.1	89 (2)	40 (21)	1.66	4.39	0	0
July	68.7	66.7	91 (10)	42 (3)	5.77	3.09	0	0
August	70.2	70.3	95 (20)	43 (3)	2.67	3.11	0	0
September	57.5	59.9	88 (19)	26 (30)	.45	1.73	0	0
October	43.5	47.9	79 (2)	12 (19)	1.23	1.33	T	0
November	27.8	29.1	52 (6)	2 (28)	.54	.82	2.1	2
December	11.9	15.8	33 (22)	-26 (7)	1.49	.81	18.8	11
AVERAGE	40.2	42.5	95	-33	25.37	22.91	58.4	16

January and February temperatures averaged about 6 degrees below normal. March and April were also slightly below normal, causing the ice to delay going out of Headquarters Marsh until April 18th. May through August temperatures were about average for the Fergus Falls and Alexandria areas. Temperatures from September through December were lower than average. The Headquarters marsh froze November 13, 1972.

Overall average temperatures for the year in the two reporting stations were below normal, while yearly precipitation was slightly above normal.

D. Habitat Conditions

1. Water

Information recorded during our 1972 breeding pair counts indicated that all of the potholes in the study area contained water in May. Later, while making brood counts, it was determined that the number of dry potholes had increased to 17.5% by mid-July. As indicated in the table below, the 1972 spring and summer water levels were the highest in recent years.

TABLE 4. Percentage of Dry Wetlands on the $\frac{5}{8}$ Square Mile Study Area by Month and Year

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	
	<u>May</u>	<u>July</u>
1972	0 %	17.5%
1971	57.3	44.0
1970	43.9	70.7
1969	24.3	34.1
1968	47.5	62.1

2. Food and Cover

The high water of early spring carried over into the summer months, flooding the emergent vegetation, thus providing excellent brood cover. Most nesting cover was also in excellent condition.

Thirteen corn plots and one sunflower plot were planted and most of these received use from pheasants and deer. The sunflower patch was planted on the Fabian Unit but for some reason (probably blackbirds) no seed was seen when it was checked in early winter.

Fall plowing, especially of corn, was not as complete as most years, which meant a fair amount of corn was available for wildlife in most of the district.

II. WILDLIFE

A. Migratory Birds

1. Waterfowl

For the past several years, waterfowl breeding pair census, brood census and waterfowl hunter counts have been conducted on a 63 square mile study area in southwest Otter Tail County by personnel from the Fergus Falls Wetland Management Office and the Minnesota Section of Game. Brood data, as well as breeding pair data, was obtained by the beat-out method on a $\frac{5}{8}$ square mile sample of the study area.

Based on the above counts, the duck breeding population is calculated at 39 pairs per square mile. This figure times 40 square miles equals a total breeding population on fee areas of 1,560 pairs. With productivity estimated at 30%, we get 468 broods times 6 young per brood or 2,800 ducks produced. This equals 0.27 per wetland acre.

Duck production on easements is estimated at 0.25 young per wetland acre or 2,400 ducks. Total WPA production then equals 5,200 ducks. //

Most goose use on WPA's comes from local flocks which are located at Fergus Falls, Ashby and Alexandria. These are all large Canada geese and some of them have nested on our units. Two broods were observed and total WPA production is estimated at 30 goslings in 6 broods.

Whistling swans make brief migrational stops on WPA's during the spring and fall. There was a large migration of swans through this area in November.

2. Water and Marsh Birds

A total of 17 species of marsh and water birds have been observed in the district, not including rare or accidental visitors. The arrival dates of some of these are shown in the following table:

TABLE 5. Marsh and Water Birds - First Arrivals

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Great Blue Heron	3/24	Common Loon	4/20
Lesser Sandhill Crane	4/5	Horned Grebe	4/21
Pied-Billed Grebe	4/9	Red-Necked Grebe	4/24
American Bittern	4/10	Green Heron	4/30
D. C. Cormorant	4/15	Sora Rail	4/30
White Pelican	4/15	B. C. Night Heron	5/3
Common Egret	4/20	Western Grebe	5/21

We noticed with particular interest that the little green heron which was around the headquarters all summer did not leave until November 9th.

3. Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns

No unusual observations were made concerning birds in this group and no new species were added to the list of 32 previously recorded. The table below shows the arrival dates for some of the species in the group.

TABLE 6. Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns - First Arrivals

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Killdeer	3/15	American Golden Plover	4/30
Ring-Billed Gull	4/6	Common Tern	5/3
Marbled Godwit	4/11	Upland Plover	5/3
Wilson's Snipe	4/11	American Avocet	5/4
American Woodcock	4/13	Black Tern	5/6
Lesser Yellowlegs	4/17	Wilson's Phalarope	5/10
Franklin's Gull	4/21		

4. Doves

The first sighting of doves in the district this year was on March 14th. As usual, they were very abundant until cold weather drove them south in the fall.

Most dove nesting is done in farm groves, but several nests have been found on the ground of burned marsh edges and road ditch banks.

B. Upland Game Birds

The pheasant population increased slightly but still remains very low. The following numbers were recorded during the year:

Bailey Slough	10	Mud Lake	17
Green	26	Spink	8
Scott-Dumke	6	Scott-Krays	4
P.C.A.	4	Headquarters	3
Biewer	3	Rosow	4
Busko	6	Blakesley	2
Blehr	2	Strand	5
Nachbar	13	N.P.R.R.	2

The ruffed grouse population appeared as good or better than last year and WPA's in the wooded eastern portion of the district hold huntable populations of these game birds.

Gray partridge occur in limited numbers with one recorded on the Green Unit and one on the Jennie Larson Unit. A brood of twelve was observed in Douglas County in June.

C. Other Birds

1. Hawks, Owls, Etc.

A total of 26 species of raptorial birds have been identified in the district to date. The only unusual observation this year was an osprey southwest of town on April 24th.

2. Crows, Ravens and Magpies

Crows are common summer residents on WPA's in the district. Most crows migrate south in the fall, but a few can usually be seen throughout the winter months as well. At least six magpies were observed in the area this fall, which is very unusual. No ravens were sighted this year.

D. Big Game Animals

White-tailed deer are common on most WPA's in the district. Although no other big game is considered resident to this area, four moose were observed this year - one on the Pesch Unit on October 12th, and three on our Julsrud Unit on October 27th. Both of these units are in Otter Tail County.

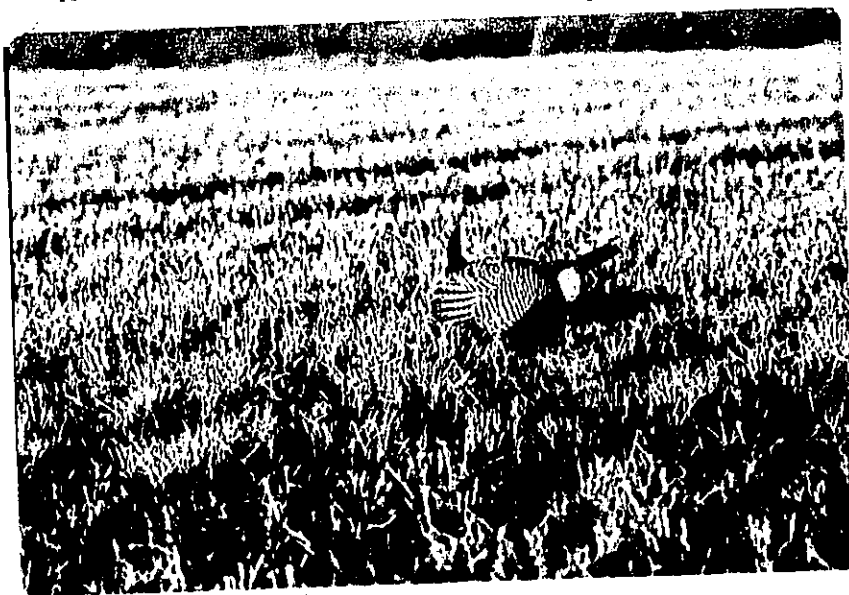
E. Fur Animals, Predators, Rodents and Other Mammals

A total of 30 species of mammals, other than deer, have been identified to date. Some of the more common ones include the beaver, mink, muskrat, weasel, jack rabbit, cottontail rabbit, red fox, skunk, raccoon, woodchuck, badger, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, and the eastern chipmunk. Pocket gophers and thirteen-lined ground squirrels are very abundant.

F. Rare, Endangered and Status Undetermined Species

Four northern greater prairie chickens were observed on the Bolding-Monson Unit in Wilkin County, while a total of 15-20 chickens are believed to be using units in the county.

The large State area west of Rothsay continues to be a concentration place for fairly large numbers of chickens. The main booming ground had at least 30 males on it when checked in April.



Taken on the State management area in Wilkin County west of Rothsay. The Wilkin County flock seems to be holding its own.

April, 1972 - Rich Johnson

G. Fish

Thirty-seven species of fish have been identified so far in the district.

H. Reptiles and Amphibians

Only ten species of reptiles and amphibians have been identified, the most common being leopard frogs, snapping turtles, garter snakes and tiger salamanders.

I. Diseases

None noted.

III. WPA DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. Physical Development

1. Headquarters

In January, a motorcycle-snowmobile business came up for sale which we felt would make an ideal headquarters for the wetland district. The acquisition office was really on the ball and they reached an agreement with the owner in February. This gave us the opportunity to acquire an office-shop building, a storage shed and nearly 33 acres, which included about 16 acres of wetlands.



Looking SW towards the office-shop building at our new headquarters. Taken just after moving (May 26) but prior to improvements.

Inky Urke - May, 1972



Same as photo on previous page, but taken the day of the Open House. Note power line has been removed, building front stained, sidewalk and sod installed, and parking area completed.

Inky Urke - September 23, 1972

The main building contained a shop, small office, parts room and a large display room in a 40'x80' area. The building had to be modified to fit our needs. A shop area was set up in the south half of the building, which was divided from the other half with a firewall of 3/4 inch sheetrock. Two offices were built in the remaining half, one office 12'x12' and the other 20'x12'. This left a reception room about 28'x40'. An 18'x12' corner was designated as a clerical area and counters were built to separate it from the main room. A raised floor was installed in both offices and the clerical area. Paneling, metal doors in the firewall, a lowered ceiling with new lights in the offices, and carpet on the raised floor completed the office remodeling.

Two new doors were installed in the shop, one 9'x11' overhead to replace a smaller 8' door, and a small walk-in door beside the large one. A new work bench was installed along one wall with pegboards above it. Lights were moved to accommodate the new work areas and shelves were put up along another wall.

The storage shed is a completely enclosed, metal pole type building 40'x80'. It was necessary to put in a large door (10'x14') on one end in order to utilize the building to its fullest. A seed room was built in one corner by pouring a cement floor and covering the upright studs with hardware cloth. The main shed floor was covered with gravel in the spring and lights were installed this winter to complete that portion of the remodeling project.

Much work was done on the grounds surrounding the buildings, but quite a bit still remains. We sodded the area in front of the office building, installed sidewalks and wood posts to designate parking areas, and graded and graveled the remaining parking area. The last step eliminated several mudholes between the buildings and stopped water from running into the office during heavy rains.

All outside electrical wires were removed and replaced with underground cable, and electrical service was increased from 100 amps to 200 amps. One pole with a mercury vapor light was moved from the front of the office to a place behind the shed. A small entryway was attached to the front door on the north side of the office to prevent the wind from blowing into the reception area. A used gas pump and 1,000 gallon underground tank were installed south of the storage shed. Two concrete slabs, one by the shed door and the other by the shop door, a new 1,000 gallon LP gas tank, and shrubbery in front of the office completed our remodeling and landscaping for the year.



A closer view of the office entrance, taken during the Open House.

Inky Urke - September 23, 1972

2. Fence Construction

A total of 1.29 miles of 4-strand barbed wire boundary fence was constructed in 1972. This was done on force account with a total cost of about \$1,400.00. An additional 0.75 miles of fencing was completed on five parking areas to prevent vehicle trespass.

1972 Fence Construction

<u>County</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Otter Tail	Johnson (92)	0.25
Otter Tail	Quiram (221)	0.25
Otter Tail	Putnam (258)	0.25
Otter Tail	Gardner (77)	0.07
Otter Tail	Scott (94)	0.18*
Otter Tail	Johnson (92)	0.10*
Douglas	Moohan (24)	0.37
Douglas	Eblan (87)	0.10
Douglas	Johls (152)	0.10*
Douglas	Carlson (121)	0.30*
Grant	Larson (46)	0.27*
TOTAL		2.04

* Fences constructed primarily to prevent vehicle trespass and to indicate parking areas. All others are 4-strand barbed wire boundary fences.

Since the WPA program was initiated, the Bureau has constructed 39.37 miles of fences in this district.

3. Fence Removal

One-half mile of interior fence was removed from the Shumaker WPA (223), Otter Tail County.

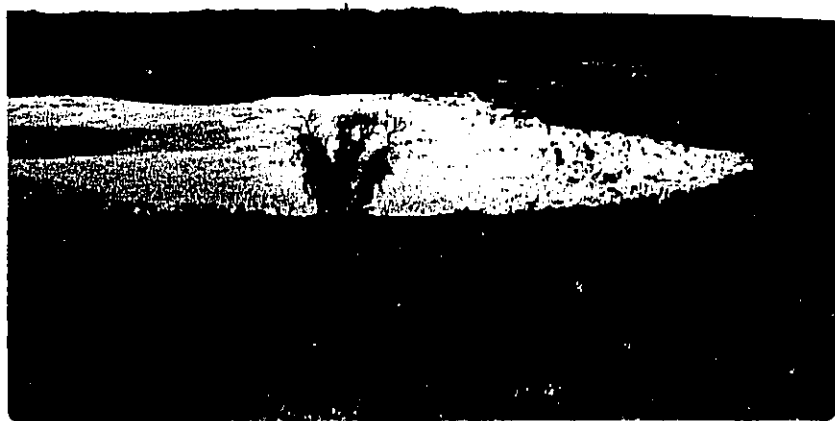
1. Marsh Restoration

Eight sections were plugged by lower on the Burlington WPA (248), Otter Tail County. About 15.4 wetland acres were restored on the eight drained portions.



A before shot of the drained basin on the Rossow
Unit in Otter Tail County.

Lou Swenson - September, 1970



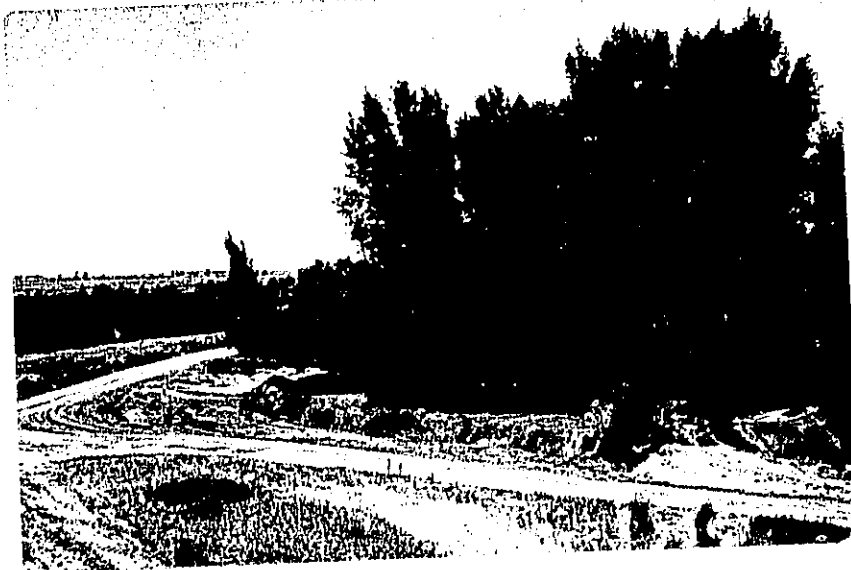
Same as above, taken in May, 1972. Tile was plugged in
November, 1971, resulting in a beautiful and productive
marsh. It received heavy waterfowl use and several
broods of ducks were raised there.

Dick Nord - May 10, 1972



Old township dump on the NRR Unit before clean-up.

Dick Tolbers - June 27, 1972



Same as above after clean-up. A costly job, but well worth it. The work was done in June, and surprisingly no one has dumped there since.

Dick Tolbers - June 30, 1972

5. Renovation of Building Sites, etc.

A D-7 dozer was contracted to renovate six building sites in 1972. Cisterns, wall pits, pit silos and basements were filled and old farm machinery, car bodies, old fence wire and much miscellaneous junk were buried within the building foundations.

Included in the above contract was the major job of covering up a one-third mile long abandoned township dump on the NPRR Unit.

1972 Building Site-Dump Renovation Summary

<u>County</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>No. Bldg. Sites</u>	<u>No. Dumps</u>
Otter Tail	NPRR (255)	-	1
Otter Tail	NPRR (255a)	-	1 (large)
Otter Tail	Scribner (248)	1	2
Grant	Idillemon (102)	1	2
Grant	Koziol (110)	1	-
Grant	Demaree (11a)	1	-
Grant	Fluegge (16)	2	-

Total cost of the above renovations was \$700.00.

6. Posting - Open Areas

Approximately 28.6 miles of boundary on 24 recently acquired WPA's were posted open to public hunting in 1972.

In Douglas County, a change in the management of two units required the replacement of "Closed Area" signs with "Open Area" signs on the Zichur (103) and Langos (27) Units. This amounted to 3.6 miles of boundary reposting.

On three of the older units, the old "blue goose" boundary signs were replaced with the green signs. About four miles of boundary in this category were completed. Less than five units remain to be converted to the new signs.

In addition, many signs were replaced after being destroyed by gunshot, snowplow wings, and neighbors hooking them with farm equipment.

7. Posting - Closed Areas

Reference is made to Table 7, "Closed Areas Posted to Date". The entire boundary was checked on all of the closed areas. Shot up or missing signs were replaced on 50.1 miles of older closed area boundaries.

This year, two new closed areas and an addition to an existing closed area were posted at 30 rod intervals. This amounted to 3.45 miles of additional closed area posting.

TABLE 7. Closed Areas Posted to Date

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>UNIT AND TRACT NUMBERS</u>	<u>MILES OF BOUNDARY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CORNERS</u>
Douglas	Biewer (60, 84, 84a, 183)	5.90	20
	Stowe Lake (30, 31)	3.58	12
	Rager (44, 52, 100, 100a, 124)	4.38	15
	Blehr (107, 108)	1.10	6
Grant	Bailey Slough (19, 19a, 85)	2.72	11
	Mud Lake (39, 47, 109, 109a, 110)	4.38	13
	Nachbor (12, 14, 51, 95)	2.90	11
	Bah (53, 56, 59, 59a, 60, 62)	3.62	10
	Pomme de Terre (16)	3.55	7
	Mittelstadt (82)	1.82	11
	Lillemon (102, 106)	2.30	6
Otter Tail	Horstman (89, 108)	3.72	10
	Gerlach (17)	1.35	6
	Thompson (40, 65, part of 145)	2.83	11
	Grefarud (41, 126)	2.02	6
	Wieger (124)	2.50	6
	Headquarters (293)	0.90	6*
	Rossow (206)	1.57	6
Wilkin	Ballmore (11, 15a)	<u>2.37</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	19 units (48 tracts)	53.51	183

* Posted with Bureau Closed Area signs only. All other areas are posted with "State Duck Refuge" signs as part of a cooperative experiment.

Approximately 19 man-days were required to post two new closed areas and to repost shot up or otherwise mutilated signs on old closed areas.

Note: Two additional units are posted closed using closed tabs on blue goose WPA signs. These areas are within the boundaries of State Statutory Refuges. The Gilmore Tract (286), Otter Tail County, and the Larson Tract (12), Douglas County, are in this category.

8. Parking Areas

Five new parking areas were built in 1972. To date, eleven such areas have been constructed on the most heavily used units.

Parking Areas

<u>County</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>No. Constructed</u>	<u>Year Constructed</u>
Otter Tail	Wildung (21)	1	1966
	Kuba (59)	1	1970
	Anderson (90)	1	1970
	Dumke (99)	1	1971
	Scott (89)	1	1971
	Kronemann (224)	1	1971
	Scott (94)	1	1972
	Johnson (92)	1	1972
Douglas	Johlf (152)	1	1972
	Carlson (121)	1	1972
Grant	Larson (46)	1	1972

B. Plantings, Including Soil and Moisture Activity

1. Aquatic and Marsh Plants

None

2. Trees and Shrubs

None

3. Grasslands

As soon as the vendor's agricultural use reservation expires, nearly all the croplands on new WPA's are seeded to grasses or dense nesting cover. No seeding was done under cooperative farming agreements in 1972. Bureau personnel and equipment did it all. Our Nisbet grass drill was used to seed 267 acres of native grasses on twelve different WPA's.

We put our new Kirschmann grass drill to work in 1972 for the first time. A total of 423 acres of dense nesting cover were seeded on seven tracts.

Both drills seeded directly into grain stubble and no nurse crop was used on any seeding. See the "Grassland Seeding Summary" for more details.

Grassland Seeding Summary -- 1972

<u>County</u>	<u>Tract No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Seeding Mixture & Rate*</u>
Douglas	Klimek (189)	6/13	3.5	A
Grant	Refsal (118a)	6/10	25.0	A
Grant	Noid (120)	6/7	5.0	A
Grant	McCollor (121)	5/19	20.0	A
Grant	Larson (124)	6/7	36.0	A
Grant	Turner (125)	9/14	20.0	B
Otter Tail	Townsend (287)	9/11	40.0	B
Otter Tail	Drache (272)	9/9	25.0	C
Otter Tail	Ishaug (80)	9/5	28.0	C
Otter Tail	Jularud (165)	8/22-29	37.5	C
Otter Tail	Jularud (165)	8/22-29	84.0	D
Otter Tail	Scribner (248)	5/8-15	86.2	D
Otter Tail	Shearer (232)	5/17	7.7	D
Otter Tail	Sandberg (264)	5/16	10.4	D
Douglas	Holder (83b)	6/26	46.0	D
Grant	Woesner (127)	9/5-8	85.0	D
Otter Tail	P.C.A. (289)	10/24-27	104.0	D
Otter Tail	Jularud (145)	8/28-30	12.0	A
Otter Tail	Jularud (145)	11/1-3	15.0	B
TOTAL			690.3	

* Seeding mixture and rate (lbs./acre)

A. Big Bluestem	23%	---Seeded @ rate of 7.8 lbs. bulk wt. per acre
Little Bluestem	25%	
Sidecoats Grama	25%	
Indiangrass	27%	
Green Needlegrass	---	---Seeded @ rate of 1.4 lbs. bulk wt. per acre

	<u># PLS/Sq. Ft.</u>
B. Indiangrass	7.8
Sidecoats Grama	3.8
Big Bluestem	4.1
Little Bluestem	2.3
Green Needlegrass	1.6
Switchgrass	5.0
Sand Dropseed	0.5

C. Indiangrass	3.3
Sidecoats Grama	3.3
Big Bluestem	3.7
Little Bluestem	3.4
Sand Dropseed	5.4
Green Needlegrass	1.8
Switchgrass	4.4

D. DNC - Dense Nesting Cover	
Intermediate Wheatgrass	6 lbs./acre
Alfalfa	1 lb./acre
Sweet Clover	1 lb./acre

C. Cultivated Crops - Wildlife Food Patches

Thirteen Cooperative Farming Agreements were in effect in 1972, which provided a like number of wildlife food patches. These varied from 5 to 10 acres in size. A total of about 72 acres of corn and 3 acres of sunflowers were left standing.

Cultivated Crop - Wildlife Food Patch Summary

<u>County</u>	<u>Tract No.</u>	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cooperator's Share</u>	<u>Gov't. Share Unharvested</u>
Douglas	73	Corn	20.4	13.6	6.8
	50	Corn	15	10	5
	24	Corn	15.6	10.4	5.2
Grant	110	Corn	15	10	5
	30	Corn	5	- -	5
		Oats	10	10	- - -
	102	Corn	5	- -	5
		Oats	10	10	- - -
	85	Corn	7	4.7	2.3
	28	Corn	8	- -	8
		Small Grain	17	17	- - -
Otter Tail	107	Corn	6	- -	6
		Oats	12	12	- - -
	248	Corn	25.7	17.1	8.6
	99	Corn	5	- -	5
		Oats	10	10	- - -
	30	Corn	5	- -	5
		Sunflower	3	- -	3
Wilkin	26	Oats	16	16	- - -
		Corn	5	- -	5
		Small Grain	10	10	- - -

D. Collections and Receipts

1. Seeds and Other Propagules

None

2. Specimens

None

3. Building Disposal

Nine buildings on the Scribner Unit (248) were sold during the year. All buildings listed on the bid forms were sold, bringing in a total of \$622.00.

1972 Building Sale Summary

House	\$51.00	Chicken House	\$21.00
Garage	300.00	Hog House	151.00
Silo	50.00	Shed	6.00
Granary	21.00	Outhouse	1.00
Chicken House	21.00	TOTAL	\$622.00

E. Control of Vegetation

Fewer than ten complaints were received from county weed inspectors in 1972. Using records of problem areas of previous years, we were able to keep ahead of the weed inspectors. Most thistle problem areas within a 25 mile radius of Fergus Falls were mowed by the Bureau. Those further away were mowed by neighboring farmers under contract. See "1972 Mowing Summary" for more details.

Chemical Weed Control

One hundred twenty acres of sow thistle were aerial sprayed with 2,4-D in time to prevent it from going to seed on one unit in Wilkin County. Also, thirty acres of Canada thistle on a Douglas County WPA were aerial sprayed with MCP in time to prevent it from going to seed. Twenty acres of leafy spurge were aerial sprayed three times during the summer on a Grant County WPA, and eleven acres were spot treated with Tordon Beads on seventeen units. See NR-12 "Report of Pesticide Application" for more details.



Leafy spurge on the NFR Unit showing effects of Tordon Beads. Weed control costs us several thousand dollars a year.

Dick Tolbers - June 30, 1972

1972 Mowing Summary For Thistle Control

<u>County</u>	<u>Tract Name And Number</u>	<u>Acres Mowed</u>	<u>Date Completed</u>
Grant	Preus (67)	10	7/5
	Demaree (11)	3	7/6
	Koziol (110)	4	7/6
	Larson (124)	6	7/7
	Bah Unit (53)	9	7/12
	Lillemon (102)	30	6/30
Otter Tail	Fabian (51a)*	12	7/20
	Busko (107)	8	6/27
	Busko (107)*	12	7/28
	Horstman (87)	7	6/28
	Quiram-Mondt Unit (210)	5	7/5
	Scribner (248)	25	7/5
	Lein (66)*	1	7/15
	Sethre (13)	7	7/10
	Morrison (34)	40	7/18
	Ten Mile Lake Unit (63, 63a, 69)	42	7/28
	Pesch (120)	5	7/26
	Madsen-Hoff-Fronning (97, 49, 50)	12	8/1
	Jorgenson (209)	35	8/2
	Mikkelsen-Fronning (130, 197)	9	8/2
	Headquarters (293)	1	8/2
	Kube (59)	2	8/2
	Arfsten (117)	4	7/26
Douglas	Fedje (73)	28	7/14
	Thompson (74)*	20	7/28
	Jolphs-Carlson Unit (152)	35	7/21
	Nelson (157)*	70	7/7
	Klimek (172)	9	7/24
	Holder (83b)*	21	6/26
	Zickur (103)	2	7/15
	Stowe Lake Unit (30)	10	7/25
	Ash (78)	18	7/27
	Odens (65)	2	8/19
TOTAL		484	

* These tracts were mowed by neighbors under contract. The remaining acreage was mowed using Bureau personnel and equipment.

Some townships require that the landowner mow his roadsides to prevent tall vegetation from collecting blown snow on the road. On the following page is a summary of roadside mowing operations done under contract.

<u>County</u>	<u>Tract Name And Number</u>	<u>Miles</u>	
Otter Tail	Morrison (34)	.75)	--\$5.00/hr. = \$27.50
	Pesch (120)	.60)	
	Ten Mile Lake Unit	4.0)	--\$5.75/hr. = \$51.75
	Frigaard (83a)	0.2)	
	Mickelson (130)	1.25)	
	Fronning (197)	0.60)	
	Madison (49)	.70)	--\$5.75/hr. = \$37.37
	Fronning (50)	.75)	
	Hoff (97)	.35)	
	Kube (59)	.25)	
Grant	Leverson (57)	1.0	
	TOTAL	10.45 miles	= \$124.12

F. Fires

No prescribed or planned burns were implemented by Bureau personnel in 1972.

Only one wild-fire was known to have occurred in 1972. It occurred on October 19th and burned approximately 8.4 acres of cattail vegetation on the Fabian Tract (30), Otter Tail County. According to neighbors, there is a "fire bug" in the community, who has set several fires along county and township road right-of-ways. This appeared to be the case on the Fabian WPA, as the fire spread into the unit from the south, where the fire started in the roadside ditch adjacent to private property. The neighbors called the Wendell Fire Department who extinguished the blaze.

United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
Branch of Realty

OWNER: Fabian, Peter J.

TRACT NO.: (30)

101.00 ACRES

UNIT: Otter Tail W A

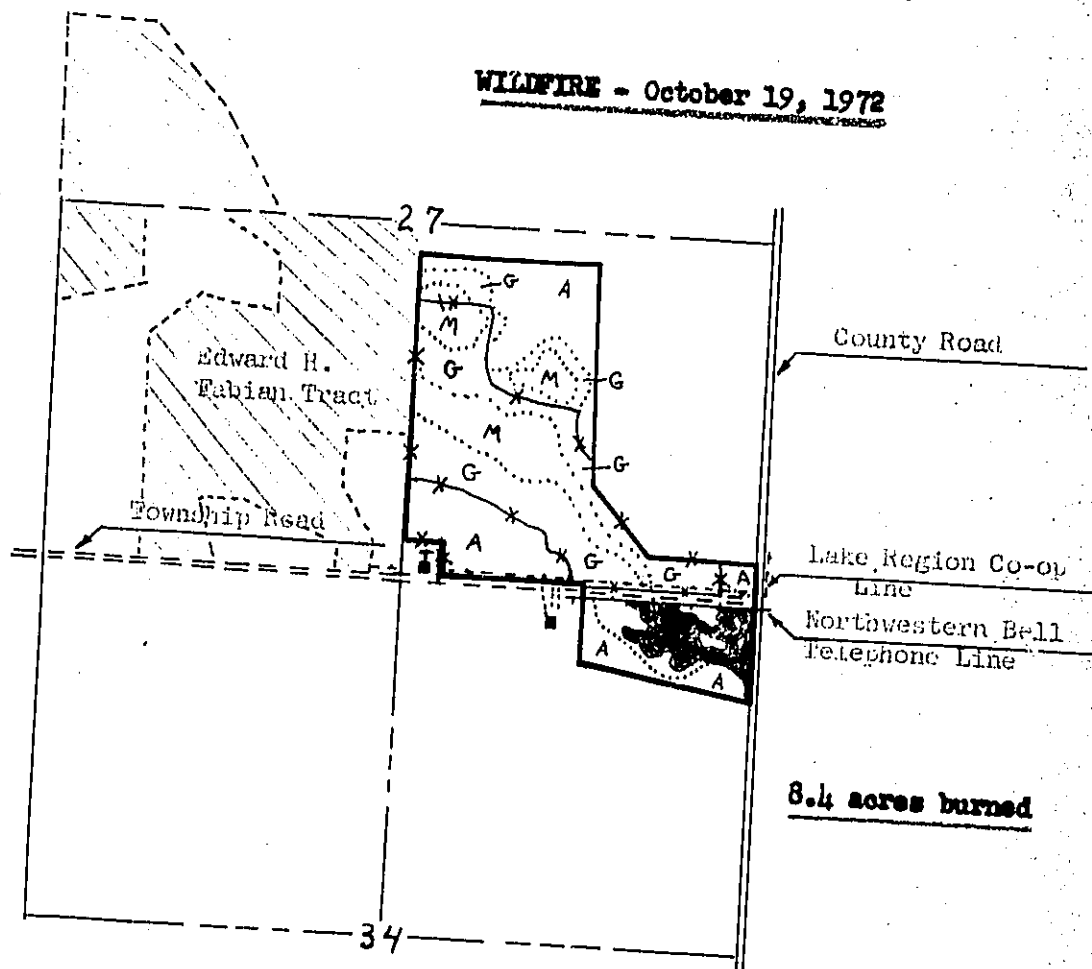
Otter Tail COUNTY

STATE OF: Minnesota

DESCRIPTION:

T. 131 N., R. 44 W., that part of the NE 1/4 of section 27 and the NE 1/4 of section 34 as described in Appendix A.

WILDFIRE - October 19, 1972



Base from B.L.M. Plat approved

Aerial Photo No. DA-7T-68

Dated 10/4/57

LEGEND

Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile

A Agriculture
G Grass
Hay, wild
Timber
Brush

M Swamp
Marsh
Water

Photograph Station

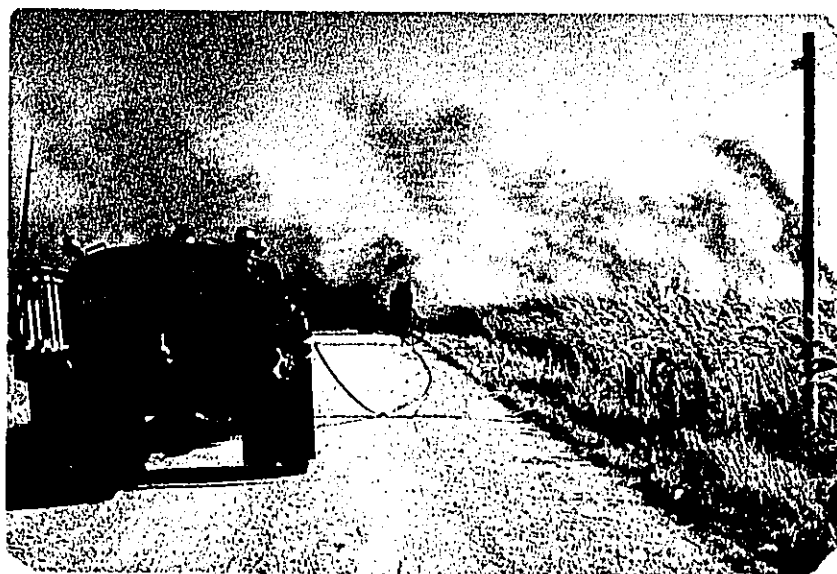
Adjacent F&W Tract

Examined by RAF 11/20/63

Platted by RAF 11/22/63

Checked by RLW 11/22/63

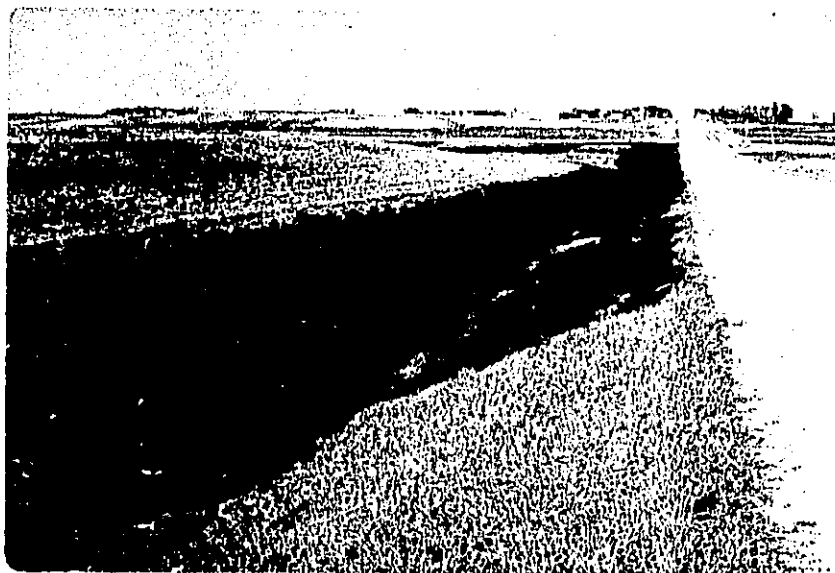
Exhibit A



Wendell volunteer firemen fighting a wildfire on the Fabian Tract (30) in Otter Tail County. Somehow they kept it from jumping the road.
Marv Mansfield - October 19, 1972



The fire burned a little over eight acres and probably did more good than harm. Winter cover is critical here, but just across the road, a large acreage was untouched.
Marv Mansfield - October 19, 1972



This view is looking north. A strong south wind was blowing when the fire was set, so it followed the road and swept into the WPA.

Marv Mansfield - October 19, 1972

IV. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A. Grazing

Only two grazing permits were issued in 1972. The two permittees have been notified that this will be their last year to graze.

In the future, grazing will be allowed only in emergency situations and possibly as a management tool where burning is not practical.

Grazing Data Summary - 1972

<u>County</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Grassland Acres</u>	<u>AUM's</u>	<u>Dates of Use</u>	<u>Revenue Collected</u>
Douglas	Klein (50)	125	64.74	6/1-9/30	\$100.36
Grant	Fluegge (16)	220	90.61	6/1-9/30	140.45
TOTALS		345	155.35		\$240.81

B. Haying

We do not encourage haying on WPA's and few requests are received. No permits were issued in 1972.

C. Fur Harvest

Fur trapping is open to the public on a first come, first served basis. Special Use Permits or trap tags are not required. Trapping is done according to state seasons and regulations. Few problems have come to our attention on trapping and it seems to be self regulating. This is fortunate, because enforcement would be next to impossible.

Mink and muskrat provide the bulk of the fur harvested. Fox hunting and trapping have greatly increased this year with pelts in the round bringing as much as \$25.00 from local buyers. We also heard that a local coon hunter had received up to \$11.00 for skinned coon pelts. Beaver are limited but are known to be active on ten management units. Many local private marshes are leased for trapping rights, leaving WPA's open to absorb a considerable amount of trapping pressure.

D. Miscellaneous Resources

Six Special Use Permits were issued allowing bee keepers to maintain hives on WPA's. Permittees have been notified that this will be their last year as this use is being phased out in the district. All hives were to be removed by December 31, 1972.

Summary of Special Use Permits - Beehives

<u>County</u>	<u>Tract Number</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Number of Hives</u>	<u>SUP Number</u>	<u>Revenue Collected</u>
Douglas	8ha	J. Dwight Hull	30	FF-85	\$10.00
	66	Miles Honey Farm	32	FF-80	10.00
Grant	67	Robert Ray	35	FF-81	10.00
	53	Robert Ray	40	FF-83	10.00
Otter Tail	130	Robert Ray	19	FF-82	10.00
	255	Sundberg Apiaries	20	FF-84	10.00
TOTALS			176		\$60.00

V. FIELD INVESTIGATION AND APPLIED RESEARCH

A. Wildlife Management Studies

State and Federal Wetlands Closed Area Program

An experimental state and federal wetland closed area program was initiated in 1969 in an attempt to reduce the harvest of locally raised mallards. This was set up under a five year study to see if any noticeable increase in the local mallard breeding population would result.

To date, 19* WPA's and 16* State Wildlife Management Areas have been closed by commissioner's order, which prohibits all public use of the areas from September 1st through the end of the duck season. One new unit (Rossow) was closed in 1972, while two others (Langos and Zickur) were opened.

Census data has been recorded for four years by aerial and ground counts on both open and closed areas. As can be seen in Table 8, the results have been questionable. Data for 1972 indicates the same as before, namely that simply closing a given number of small wetland tracts will not protect a significant number of resident ducks. Large scale application of the method tested is not recommended, but we believe good results could be obtained by closing carefully selected wetlands and statutory refuges.

B. Informal Biological Activities

A cooperative nest survey by Bureau and Section of Game personnel was undertaken during June to evaluate the advantages of a heavy, dense nesting cover versus a sparse, thin cover. A flushing device (similar to that used by Duebbert) was used to locate nests, which were checked at intervals until their fate was known.

Two WPA's in Stony Brook Township, Grant County, were chosen for this project. The Preus WPA lies in section 1 and has an area of approximately 160 acres, including 110 acres of grassland, 5 acres of timber and brush, and 45 acres of marsh. The Lillemon-Jacobson WPA lies in section 6 and has an area of approximately 200 acres, including 26 acres of timber and brush, 66 acres of cropland, and 93 acres of grassland.

* Include one WPA and four State areas in Clay County.

TABLE 8. Aerial Census of Ducks on State and Federal Refuges By Species - 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972

Species	First Count Before Hunting Opening				Second Count After Hunting Opening				Third Count About October 20th			
	1969	1970	1971	1972	1969	1970	1971	1972	1969	1970	1971	1972
Mallard	977	709	529	863	1579	2677	1305	2405	2010	2755	2361	2110
Pintail	146	17	151	110	35	0	420	108	0	0	269	2
Shoveler	65	48	4	20	50	20	6	14	23	0	25	0
Gadwall	210	12	31	9	160	12	119	91	184	0	125	27
American widgeon	759	336	379	585	1094	380	810	1090	505	283	503	90
Blue-winged teal	554	397	604	404	449	135	655	241	8	0	38	0
Green-winged teal	93	384	135	100	345	420	257	311	86	434	270	14
Teal	0	9	0	0	0	469	0	26	0	0	0	0
Wood duck	42	12	17	28	10	1	37	22	0	0	30	0
Redhead	52	85	22	85	44	0	31	187	21	16	20	66
Canvasback	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Sompe	0	0	0	0	96	0	1	0	290	20	17	120
Ring-necked duck	46	40	265	271	81	665	315	56	61	870	643	128
Bufflehead	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	4	0	0
Unidentified duck	11	49	14	25	5	57	0	71	40	122	0	0
Totals	2959	2090	2151	2500	3950	4835	3956	4622	3279	4404	4303	2557

Note: 29 refuges in 1969; 36 in 1970 and 1971; 35 in 1972
 No count made on 2 areas on third 1970 count
 No count made on 5 areas on third 1971 count
 No count made on 10 areas on third 1972 count



Nest searching on Preus Unit with the cable-chain
drag. Minnesota Waterfowl Biologist Norm Ordal
(observer on nearest tractor) assisted with search.
Dick Tolbers - June 14, 1972



Mallard nest on Preus Unit, found with cable-chain
drag.
Rich Joarnt - June 15, 1972

Nest searching was conducted June 13-15, 1972. Vegetation height appeared to be the most important factor affecting nest success. A total of 18 nests were found, 8 of which were in tall cover and 10 in short cover. Seven of the eight nests in tall cover were successful, while only two of the ten nests in short cover were successful. All nests appeared to have been destroyed by mammals. Eight of the nine nests were destroyed within one week of their discovery.

Although our sample size is too small to reach any firm conclusion, it does appear to reinforce the theory of predator proofing nests by use of dense cover.

VI. EASEMENT ADMINISTRATION

On November 13th, a total of 171 easements were aerial checked in the Fergus Falls District. All easements in Douglas, Grant, and south of U. S. Highway 210 and southwest of Interstate 94 in Otter Tail County were inspected. This represents about half the total number (331) of easements. The remaining easements will be checked in 1973.

Of the easements checked, a total of six violations (three drainage, two burning, and one filling) were confirmed by ground checks.

Once a violation is confirmed by ground check, the landowner is personally contacted to inform him that he is in violation of his easement agreement and to get restoration. A certified letter regarding the contact is then sent to the violator reminding him to correct the violation by a certain date.

1972 Easement Violations Confirmed

<u>County</u>	<u>Easement</u>	<u>Type of Violation</u>
Douglas	145X	Filling
	160X	Burning
Grant	25X	Burning
	42X	Drainage
	45X	Drainage
Otter Tail	27X	Drainage
Wilkin	None	
	Not checked	

A total of twelve easement violations were "outstanding" in the district as of December 31, 1972. We hope to get restoration on most of these in the spring except for a couple of "problem violations" which may require legal action.

Game Management Agent Joe Hopkins is working with us on these problem cases to determine if we have sufficient evidence to submit them to the Regional Office for prosecution.

VII. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A. Recreational Uses

Nothing significant to report. Non-wildlife oriented uses are not encouraged, and wildlife oriented uses (except hunting) are very light.

B. Refuge Visitors

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
2/8	Myrna Friedman	USDA, Investigator	ASCS farmer viol.
2/9	Jim Monnie	Our boss	Inspect office site
5/4	Rick Jones	Nature Conservancy	Prairie acquisition
5/9	Forrest Carpenter	Monnie's boss	Inspect new office
7/3	John Rose	Pres., Mn. Wildlife Fed.	Visit
7/5	V. L. Johnson	Dist. Eng., Mn. Hwy.	Culvert
7/19	John Jones	Safety Officer, C. O.	Inspection
7/19	Lyle Miller	Safety Officer, R. O.	Inspection
7/21	Chet Possehl	Dist. Weed Inspector	Weeds
8/3	Carlton Mortenson	Sheriff, Otter Tail Co.	Alarm system
9/4	Beatrice Jones	Mother-in-law	You know
9/6	Cliff Uckelberg	State Senator	Bee hives
9/8	Charles Hughlett	Deputy Reg'l. Director	Visit and tour
9/21	John Carlson	Future boss	Visit
11/15	Gilbert Key	Environmental Spec.	EE
11/15	Ed Landin	EE Coordinator	EE

The above list includes only the more significant visitors. Since moving to the new office, we have averaged 60 visitors per month.

C. Refuge Participation

<u>Date</u>	<u>Personnel Attending</u>	<u>Event</u>
1/13	Mansfield	Talk at Douglas County Weed Meeting
1/14	Mansfield	Talk at Grant County Weed Meeting
2/14	Mansfield	Talk to Brandon Sportmen's Club
2/28	Mansfield	Slide talk to FF Kiwanis Club
3/13	Tolbers	Movie and talk to neighborhood children and parents
3/20	Mansfield	Movie to FF YMCA Indian guides
4/29	Mansfield	Talk-tour with YMCA Indian guides at Rothsay prairie chicken booming grounds
5/9	Tolbers	Film to Aastad County 4-H group members
5/24	Mansfield	Slide talk to FF High School students at a gun safety class
7/7	Mansfield	Tour with FF High School science students at the Ten Mile Unit
9/18	Mansfield, Tolbers	Radio release on Station KBRF regarding our Open House
9/20	Tolbers	Radio release on Station KBRF regarding our Open House
9/23	All	Wetland Management Office National Hunting and Fishing Day "Open House"
9/27	Mansfield	Talk-tour with FF High School biology students (three groups) at the Wildung WPA
10/17	Mansfield	Talked to Seniors (three groups) at FF High School during Career Days
10/17	Nord, Enquist	Film-talk-tour with FF High School Seniors during Career Days
11/8	Mansfield	Slide talk to Wednesday School 3-5 graders at the Graco Methodist Church
11/20	Tolbers	Film-talk to Boy Scouts at the Grace Methodist Church

D. Hunting

As usual, waterfowl hunting attracted more people than any other single public use category. Deer and pheasants ran a distant second and third respectively, with predator and other small game hunting making up the remainder of this class of public use.

Ground checks on the opening weekend of duck season gave us an estimate of 5.4 cars per WPA. Previous data indicates we can

expect about 2.5 hunters per car. This gave us an overall estimate of about 2,500 hunters on opening day of duck season. On a per acre basis, this amounts to about one hunter per ten acres of WPA or about one hunter per four acres of marsh.

Duck hunting was generally considered poor on the opening day due to an early migration of blue-winged teal. Success picked up somewhat later in the season with the scaup migration, but viewing the season as a whole, our observations indicated a lower than average kill.

From an aerial census, we were able to determine approximately 400 deer hunters used our units (all of which were in the one day zone). The statewide success ratio was 30% in 1972. Assuming the same success ratio for the 400 hunters, we arrive at a kill of approximately 120 deer.

The pheasant season was open state-wide this year after being closed locally since 1968. Hunting success was relatively poor, however, certain "key" WPA's and State Wildlife Management areas provided some good shooting resulting from fairly heavy hunting pressure. The majority of this pressure came from local people who had observed the birds throughout the year.

A few hunters enjoyed success hunting ruffed grouse on some of the eastern WPA's of the area. However, grouse are not commonly found on most units.

Bow hunting for deer, and predator hunting has been increasing for the past several years on WPA tracts. We expect this trend to continue in the coming years.

E. Violations

No game law violators were apprehended by Wetland Management personnel in 1972, and State Conservation officers did not report any cases of trespass violations within the cooperative closed areas.

Illegal trespass on fee units, with vehicles, farm equipment, and earth-moving equipment constitutes the majority of violations. We notified seven farmer trespass violators by personal contact and certified letter, to cease using that "waste land" for personal gain.



Illegal trespass of all sorts is a serious problem in the district. Things got out of hand because the Federal Courts would not handle the cases. This has been resolved, and it appears we may get control of the situation. This township road job is a classic example of making use of all that "wasteland". They merely shoved all the trees and rocks onto the WPA.

Marv Mansfield - September, 1972

Actually, we have a large number of the above type violations but they are mainly a part of our growing pains and the tools are now available to lick this problem in a reasonable time. Thanks to the assistance of Game Management Agent Joe Hopkins, the solution looks much closer than it did a year ago.

Snowmobile trespass was heavy for only a short period (12/15 to 1/15) because of extreme cold and lack of snow. On 1/10/73 Pilot John Winship and Assistant Manager Tolbars made an aerial survey of 65 units with the following results:

13 heavy use	22 light use
18 moderate use	12 no use

This information is useful in knowing where to make the patrol effort. So far, only juveniles have been apprehended, thus no prosecutions were attempted.

F. Safety

Management personnel attended regular safety meetings at the Management Office and on a few occasions attended joint meetings at the Wetlands Office with their personnel.

We were fortunate again in that no lost time injury or property damage accidents occurred in 1972. Since 1963, 10,655 man-days have been recorded at this station without a lost time accident. More than 411,629 miles have been driven without a lost time injury, however, only 91,629 miles were driven since the last vehicle property damage accident on September 18, 1970.

G. Revenue Sharing

All County Auditors favorably received the revenue sharing checks. Several of them noted the increase in amount of these checks without it being called to their attention.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Grant Co.</u>	<u>Douglas Co.</u>	<u>Ot. Tail Co.</u>	<u>Wilkin Co.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1966	2,233.95	1,659.93	2,674.92	- - - -	6,568.80
1967	2,985.68	2,389.62	4,012.46	46.18	9,433.94
1968	3,455.39	2,800.24	4,012.46	172.65	10,440.74
1969	3,998.65	3,148.83	4,494.21	236.13	11,877.82
1970	4,448.23	3,502.18	5,053.45	387.01	13,390.87
1971	5,592.73	4,870.39	6,529.07	728.68	17,720.87
1972	6,039.80	5,050.55	7,857.71	773.68	19,721.74
TOTAL	28,754.43	23,421.74	34,634.28	2,344.33	89,154.78

VIII. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items of Interest

The big story of the year involved the acquisition of our new headquarters complex which is located one mile east of Fergus Falls on Highway 210. The headquarters is situated on a 32.7 acre fee tract which contains 16 acres of wetlands.

It would be difficult to imagine a better set-up from a management standpoint. A great big "Thank You" from our gang to all who had a hand in establishing this office.

Enid Ringdahl resigned effective March 17th. She was a very good clerk, but did not want to work more than three days a week.

Mrs. Ringdahl was replaced on May 1st by Miss Inga Mae (Inky) Urke. Inky transferred here from the Benson Wetland Management Office where she had worked since October, 1971. Previous to that, she worked at the Benson Wetlands Office starting in October, 1963.

Nancy Tolbers gave birth to a lovely 5 lb. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tax exemption named Kristin Jean. The event took place on New Years Eve at about 10:00 P. M.. I am told that Dick spent the entire afternoon driving Nancy over the roughest roads in Otter Tail County.

B. Credits

Credit for writing this report goes to the following:

Richard Tolbers: I-A; II-A2, 3, 4; B-I, IV and VII-C.

Wayne Enquist: I-C & D; II-A1; III Physical Development at Headquarters and VII-D.

Richard Nord: III Physical Development in the Field.

Marvin Mansfield: VII A, B; VIII

Miss Urke typed and assembled the entire report, and completed the Wetland Management District maps.



A restored marsh on the Bah-Schmitz Unit in Grant County.

Dick Nord - May 10, 1972



What is going on here? Apparently the frog in the background knows because he has turned his back on the affair.

George Gard - May, 1972



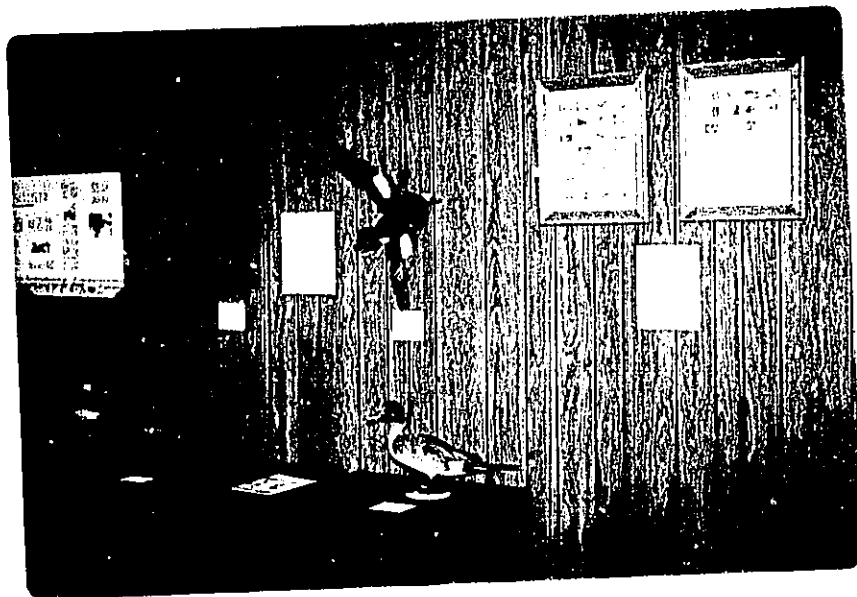
Scene at September Open House, taken inside the large outer office. Bio. Tech. Enquist is talking to visitors.

Inky Urke - September 23, 1972



Same as above, only this time Ass't. Manager Tolbers is doing the talking.

Inky Urke - September 23, 1972



Part of the Open House display.

Inky Urke - September 23, 1972



Joint Safety Meeting with Wetlands Office gang,
conducted by Fergus Falls Fire Chief, on fire
extinguisher use.

Inky Urke - August, 1972



That old gang of mine. From left to right:
Enquist, U'Ren, Nord, Heglund, Røger, Mansfield,
Melby, Tolbers and Joarnt.

Inky Urka - May, 1972



Miss Inga Mae Urka
Our Clerk-Steno

SIGNATURE PAGE

Submitted by:

(Signature) Marvin Mansfield

Wetland Manager
Title

Date: March 30, 1973

Approved, Regional Office:

Date: 4/11/73

/s/ John C. Carlsent

(Signature)

Refuge District
Regional Refuge Supervisor

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
SHELDON HART MOUNTAIN NATIONAL ANTELOPE REFUGES
POST OFFICE BOX 111
LAKEVIEW OREGON 97630

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300



Mr. Marvin Mansfield, Flatlands Manager
Wetlands Management District, BSFW
Box 294
Highway 210 East
Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56537

44

I have been called a lot of things, but to be called a Miss
that manages flatlands is going too far.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF ACCOUNTS
DIVISION OF DISBURSEMENT
ROOM 803 -- 536 SOUTH CLARK STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60680

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Miss Marvin Mansfield
Cashier
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife
P. O. Box 294
Fergus Falls, Minn. 56537

17

A.F. Daily Journal 9/16/72

City wetlands office plans open house

The Fergus Falls Wetland Management Office of the Federal Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will hold an open House Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m.

The new office is one mile east of the city on Highway 210. Waterfowl production areas in Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail and Wilkin counties are managed from the office.

The open house also recognizes national Hunting and Fishing Day and displays will include mounted birds and mammals, skulls, photos, and equipment used to manage wetlands.

Personnel, including an appraiser from the acquisition office, will be available to answer questions. Movies will be shown at 2, 3:30 and 5 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

The offices are located in what used to be the Outsider, a sporting goods store which closed earlier this year.

FERGUS FALLS DAILY JOURNAL
2/29/72

AREA MARSHES SAVED BY WETLANDS PROGRAM

Even since 1964, 20 per cent of the best duck-producing marshes in the prairie region have been drained, a wetlands manager for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service said yesterday.

Less than a century ago in the high plains states there were 10 million acres of potholes and marshes. Marvin Mansfield, who heads the Fergus Falls Wetlands Management District, told the Fergus Falls Kiwanis Club. Today less than four million acres remain.

In Minnesota alone, he said, there are more than 70,000 miles of drainage ditches draining the prairie pothole country created by glacial action about 10,000 years ago.

The trend toward drainage began to be reversed, he explained, in 1950 when the state of Minnesota began acquiring wet-

lands. That action stimulated other action, this time by the federal government.

The government itself has now stopped promoting drainage, he told the Kiwanians, although his agency still keeps a close environmental watch on the Army Corps of Engineers.

Through the federal wetlands acquisition program, he said, a large amount of marshland has been purchased and it is his job — an dthe job of others like him — to manage the land once it is acquired.

That means cleaning up the land, developing suitable cover, developing shelter belts, providing nesting platforms and building fences where necessary.

Although the major aim of the program, he said, is to save good water-producing habitat, wetlands areas are also good spots for research, environmental education, hiking and picnicking.

The areas often provide excellent habitat for other wildlife, including mink, muskrat, grouse, pheasants and deer, Mansfield said.

Mansfield came to Fergus Falls in August from Dawson, N.D. The Fergus Falls area covers four counties — Otter Tail, Wilkin, Douglas and Grant.

FERGUS FALLS DAILY
JOURNAL - 11/27/72

Snowmobiles banned on federal wetlands

The operation of snowmobiles is prohibited on all federal Waterfowl Production Areas, and snowmobilers are reminded that such trespass with their machines could land them in federal court.

Marvin Mansfield, area manager for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, said today that the ban is necessary to prevent disturbance to wildlife and damage to nesting and winter cover.

For more information, you may visit the Wetland Management Office on Highway 210 East, Fergus Falls, or phone 736-3681. Federal wetlands in Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail and Wilkin Counties are managed from this office.

3-1758
Form No. 8
(Rev. Jan. 1956)

Fish and Wildlife Service Branch of Wildlife Refuges
CULTIVATED CROPS - HAYING - GRAZING - 1972

Refuge Waterfowl Production Areas County Wilkin State Minnesota

Cultivated Crops Grown	Permittee's Share Harvested		Government's Share or Return				Total Acreage Planted	Green Manure, Cover and Waterfowl Browsing Crops Type and Kind	Total Acreage
	Acres	Bu./Tons	Harvested Acres	Bu./Tons	Unharvested Acres	Bu./Tons			
Corn	- -				5.0		5.0		
Small grain	10.0				- -		10.0		
								Fallow Ag. Land.	None

No. of Permittees: Agricultural Operations 1 Haying Operations 0 Grazing Operations 0

Hay - Improved (Specify Kind)	Tons Harvested	Acres	Cash Revenue	Grazing	Number Animals	AUM'S	Cash Revenue	ACREAGE
	None			1. Cattle	None			
				2. Other	None			
				1. Total Refuge Acreage Under Cultivation				15.0
				2. Acreage Cultivated as Service Operation				None
Hay - Wild	None							

FERGUS FALLS DAILY JOURNAL
4/11/72

FERGUS FALLS DAILY
JOURNAL 6-13-72

Smelt fry, boat show set here April 28-29

The Fergus Falls Area Save the Wetlands Club's annual smelt fry and boat show is set for April 28-29 at the National Guard Armory.

Conservation awards will be presented to Peter D. Kunz, Fergus Falls Route 2; Alex Meyer, Dent; Mr. and Mrs. John S. Frank Jr., Dent; John P. Donelan, Fergus Falls Route 3, and Lloyd M. Rogholt, Elizabeth.

Special guest will include Roger Holmes, supervisor, section of game, Division of Game and Fish, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and Dick Dorer, pioneer of the wetlands movement.

The wetlands club, composed of private citizens, was organized 18 years ago. It has four objectives — to conserve dwindling natural marshlands, to conserve wildlife habitat, to stimulate wetland conservation education and to help combat water pollution.

The club received a permanent plaque from the Minnesota division of the Isaac Walton League in 1963 and received the first Minnesota Heritage Citation by the

governor of Minnesota in 1968.

The club recently purchased 270 acres and plans to restore two drained wetlands. The tract will be managed as a demonstration area in this prairie pothole region. Conservation leaders have termed the club's efforts an important breakthrough in soil, water and game preservation.

Wetlands office moves

The Wetland Management Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has moved to new quarters on Highway 210 one mile east of Fergus Falls.

Wetland Manager Marvin Mansfield reports that personnel from this office are responsible for managing 180 wetland units in Otter Tail, Douglas, Grant and Wilkin Counties.

These units are acquired with duck stamp funds and are primarily for waterfowl production. Management practices are such that pheasants, deer, and other forms of wildlife are also benefitted.

The Wetland Management Office will be open from 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday. Visitors are always welcome. An open house is planned for sometime this fall to better acquaint the public with the Wetland Management program and facilities.

Three events highlight hunting, fishing day

Three big events will be held in Fergus Falls on Saturday, Sept. 23, highlighting National Hunting and Fishing Day.

An open house will be held by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service from 1-4 p.m. at their new office on Highway 210 (formerly the

Outsider).

The Fergus Falls Gun Club will sponsor a trap shooting exhibition at their Pebble Lake range from 2-4 p.m.

An open house will be held at the National Guard Armory sponsored by the Fergus Falls Fish & Game Club from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. All three events are free to the public.

Hay - Improved (Specify Kind)	Tons Harvested	Acres	Cash Revenue	Grazing	Number Animals	AUM'S	Cash Revenue	ACREAGE
	None			1. Cattle	None			
				2. Other	None			
				1. Total Refuge Acreage Under Cultivation				
Hay - Wild	None		2. Acreage Cultivated as Service Operation					None

3-1758
Form 1-8
(Rev. Jan. 1956)

Fish and Wildlife Service Branch of Wildlife Refuges

CULTIVATED CROPS - HAYING - GRAZING - 1972

Refuge Waterfowl Production Areas County Douglas State Minnesota

Cultivated Crops Grown	Permittee's Share Harvested		Government's Share or Return				Total Acreage Planted	Green Manure, Cover and Water- fowl Browsing Crops Type and Kind	Total Acreage
	Acres	Bu./Tons	Harvested		Unharvested				
			Acres	Bu./ Tons	Acres	Bu. /Tons			
Corn	34.1				16.9		51.0		
								Fallow Ag. Land.	

No. of Permittees: Agricultural Operations 3 Haying Operations 0 Grazing Operations 1

Hay - Improved (Specify Kind)	Tons Harvested	Acres	Cash Revenue	Grazing	Number Animals	AUM'S	Cash Revenue	ACREAGE
	None			1. Cattle	22	64.75	100.36	125
				2. Other	---			
				1. Total Refuge Acreage Under Cultivation				51.0
Hay - Wild	None			2. Acreage Cultivated as Service Operation				None

3-1758
Form NR-8
(Rev. Jan. 1956)

Department of Wildlife Service Branch of Wildlife Refuges

CULTIVATED CROPS - HAYING - GRAZING - 1972

Refuge Waterfowl Production Areas County Grant State Minnesota

Cultivated Crops Grown	Permittee's Share Harvested		Government's Share or Return				Total Acreage Planted	Green Manure, Cover and Water- fowl Browsing Crops Type and Kind	Total Acreage
	Acres	Bu./Tons	Acres	Bu./ Tons	Acres	Bu. /Tons			
Corn	15.7				25.3		40.0		
Oats	20.0				- -		20.0		
Small Grain (except wheat)	17.0				- -		17.0		
								Fallow Ag. Land.	

No. of Permittees: Agricultural Operations 5 Haying Operations 0 Grazing Operations 1

Hay - Improved (Specify Kind)	Tons Harvested	Acres	Cash Revenue	Grazing	Number Animals	AUM'S	Cash Revenue	ACREAGE
	None			1. Cattle	35	90.61	\$140.45	220
				2. Other	None			
				1. Total Refuge Acreage Under Cultivation				77.0
Hay - Wild	None			2. Acreage Cultivated as Service Operation				None

3-1755
Form R-5
60701

DISEASE

Refuge Fergus Falls Wetland Management District Year 19. 72

Botulism

Lead Poisoning or other Disease

Period of outbreak None noted

Period of heaviest losses _____

Losses:

	Actual Count	Estimated
(a) Waterfowl	_____	_____
(b) Shorebirds	_____	_____
(c) Other	_____	_____

Number Hospitalized	No. Recovered	% Recovered
(a) Waterfowl	_____	_____
(b) Shorebirds	_____	_____
(c) Other	_____	_____

Areas affected (location and approximate acreage) _____

Water conditions (average depth of water in sickness areas, reflooding of exposed flats, etc.) _____

Condition of vegetation and invertebrate life _____

Remarks _____

Kind of disease None noted

Species affected _____

Number Affected Species	Actual Count	Estimated
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Number Recovered _____

Number lost _____

Source of infection _____

Water conditions _____

Food conditions _____

Remarks _____

3-1757
Form NR-7
(Rev. June 1960)

NONAGRICULTURAL COLLECTIONS, RECEIPTS, AND PLANTINGS (1)

Refuge Fergus Falls Wetland Mgt. District Year 19 72

Species	Collections and Receipts (Seeds, rootstocks, trees, shrubs)						Plantings (Marsh - Aquatic - Upland)						
	Amount (Lbs., bus., etc.)	(2) C or R	Date	Method or Source	Cost	(3) Total Amount on Hand	Location of Area Planted	Rate of Seeding or Planting	Amount Planted (Acres or Yards of Shoreline)	Amount and Nature of Propagules	Date	Survival	Cause of Loss
None							None						

- (1) Report agronomic farm crops on Form NR-8
- (2) C = Collections and R = Receipts
- (3) Use "S" to denote surplus

Total acreage planted:

Marsh and aquatic _____
Hedgerows, cover patches _____
Food strips, food patches _____
Forest plantings _____

Remarks: _____

8-1570
NR-88
(11/54)

REFUGE GRAIN REPORT

Months of January through December 1972
1981

Refuge Fergus Falls Wetland Mgt. District

(1) VARIETY*	(2) ON HAND BEGINNING OF PERIOD	(3) RECEIVED DURING PERIOD	(4) TOTAL	(5) GRAIN DISPOSED OF				(6) ON HAND END OF PERIOD	(7) PROPOSED OR SUITABLE USE*		
				Transferred	Seeded	Fed	Total		Seed	Feed	Surplus
Grain	0	50 bu.	50 bu.			50 bu.	50 bu.	0			
Corn											
Seed	800 lbs.	- -	800 lbs.	- -	312 lbs.	- -	312 lbs.	488 lbs.	488 lbs.	- -	- -
Indiangrass	330 lbs.	- -	330 lbs.	- -	180 lbs.	- -	180 lbs.	150 lbs.	150 lbs.	- -	- -
Sideoats Grama	430 lbs.	- -	430 lbs.	- -	430 lbs.	- -	430 lbs.	0	- -	- -	- -
Native Grass Mix											
Big Blue Stem 23%											
Little Blue Stem 25%											
Side Oats Grama 25%											
Indiangrass 27%											
Intermed. Wheatgrass	1000 lbs.	1100 lbs.	2100 lbs.	- -	1550 lbs.	- -	1550 lbs.	550 lbs.	550 lbs.	- -	- -
Ranger Alfalfa	180 lbs.	133 lbs.	313 lbs.	- -	163 lbs.	- -	163 lbs.	150 lbs.	150 lbs.	- -	- -
Yel. sweet clover	190 lbs.	- -	190 lbs.	- -	190 lbs.	- -	190 lbs.	0	- -	- -	- -
White sweet clover	- -	133 lbs.	133 lbs.	- -	- -	- -	- -	133 lbs.	133 lbs.	- -	- -
Big Blue Stem Grass	- -	520 lbs.	520 lbs.	- -	150 lbs.	- -	150 lbs.	370 lbs.	370 lbs.	- -	- -
Little Blue Stem "	20 lbs.	158 lbs.	178 lbs.	- -	58 lbs.	- -	58 lbs.	120 lbs.	120 lbs.	- -	- -
Blue Grama	- -	40 lbs.	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	40 lbs.	- -	- -	- -
Native Grass Mixed	- -	251 lbs.	251 lbs.	- -	56 lbs.	- -	56 lbs.	195 lbs.	195 lbs.	- -	- -
Green Needlegrass 39%											
Switchgrass 56 %											
Sand Dropseed 4%											
Native Grass Mixed											
Indiangrass	45%							50 lbs.	50 lbs.	- -	- -
Side Oats Grama	20%							mixed			
Big Blue Stem		25%									
Little Blue Stem		9%									

The Fergus Falls Wetland Management District Headquarters

(8) Indicate shipping or collection points

(9) Grain is stored at

(10) Remarks Seed weights are bulk pounds rather than pounds pure live seed.

(Continued on next page)

*See instructions on back.

8-1570
NR-88
(4/54)

REFUGE GRAIN REPORT

Refuge Fergus Falls Wetland Mgt. District

Months of January through December 1972
196

(1) VARIETY*	(2) ON HAND BEGINNING OF PERIOD	(3) RECEIVED DURING PERIOD	(4) TOTAL	(5) GRAIN DISPOSED OF				(6) ON HAND END OF PERIOD	(7) PROPOSED OR SUITABLE USE*		
				Transferred	Seeded	Fed	Total		Seed	Feed	Surplus
Alfalfa - white sweet clover - mixed	95 lbs.	95 lbs.	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	95 lbs.	95 lbs.	- -	- -

(8) Indicate shipping or collection points The Fergus Falls Wetland Management District Headquarters

(9) Grain is stored at .

(10) Remarks Seed weights are bulk pounds rather than pounds pure live seed.

*See instructions on back.

3-1979 (NP-12)
(9/63)

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

Refuge

Fergus Falls Wetland Mgt. District

ANNUAL REPORT OF PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Proposal Number

Reporting Year

1972

INSTRUCTIONS: Wildlife Refuges Manual, secs. 3252d, 3394b and 3395.

Date(s) of Application	List of Target Pest(s)	Location of Area Treated	Total Acres Treated	Chemical(s) Used	Total Amount of Chemical Applied	Application Rate	Carrier and Rate	Method of Application
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
6/7	Leafy spurge	<u>Douglas County</u> Hagedorn (22)	*	Tordon	115 lbs.	100 lbs/acre	Gran.	Hand
6/26	" "	" "	*	"	30 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/7	" "	Anderson (124)	*	"	25 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/26	" "	" "	*	"	20 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/22	Can. thistle	Holder (83b)	30	MCP	4 gal., 16 lbs. AI	1.9 " "	Water	Aerial
6/1	Leafy spurge	<u>Grant County</u> DeLong (29,b)	*	Tordon	15 lbs.	100 lbs/acre	Gran.	Hand
6/3, 7/3, 8/3	" "	" "	20	2, 4-D	20 qts.	1 qt/ac. tot.	Water	Aerial
6/1	" "	McCollor (121)	*	Tordon	5 lbs.	100 lbs/acre	Gran.	Hand
6/29	Can. thistle	Anderson (109a)	*	"	40 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/5	Leafy spurge	<u>Otter Tail County</u> Wirth (86)	*	Tordon	20 lbs.	100 lbs/acre	Gran.	Hand
6/2	" "	Bergrud (11)	*	"	1 lb.	" " "	"	"
6/5	" "	Neuman (98)	*	"	40 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/16	" "	" "	*	"	4 lbs.	" " "	"	"
7/29	" "	" "	*	"	7 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/9	" "	Wildung (21)	*	"	500 lbs.	" " "	"	"

10. Summary of results (continue on reverse side, if necessary)

* Spot treatment of small spurge patches scattered over approximately 330 acres within 17 tracts. Most of these patches have been treated in prior years. Those that were solid stands still have scattered individual plants that persist but with reduced density.

3-1972 (NR-12)
(9/63)

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

ANNUAL REPORT OF PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Refuge

Fergus Falls Wetland Mgt. District

Proposal Number

Reporting Year

1972

INSTRUCTIONS: Wildlife Refuges Manual, secs. 3252d, 3394b and 3395.

Date(s) of Application	List of Target Pest(s)	Location of Area Treated	Total Acres Treated	Chemical(s) Used	Total Amount of Chemical Applied	Application Rate	Carrier and Rate	Method of Application
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
6/16	Leafy spurge	Otter Tail County	(Continued)	Tordon	25 lbs.	100 lbs/acre	Gran.	Hand
6/1	" "	Wildung (21)	*	"	10 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/16	" "	Horstman (87)	*	"	1 lb.	" " "	"	"
7/29	" "	" "	*	"	6 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/6	" "	Johnson (92)	*	"	90 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/26	" "	" "	*	"	40 lbs.	" " "	"	"
5/30	" "	Scott-Grays (109)	*	"	35 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/2	" "	Fabian (51a)	*	"	10 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/2	" "	Fronning (197)	*	"	1 lb.	" " "	"	"
5/30	" "	N. R. R. (255a)	*	"	45 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/16	" "	" " " " "	*	"	10 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/5	" "	Tomhave (20)	*	"	10 lbs.	" " "	"	"
6/16	" "	Gerlach (47)	*	"	3 lbs.	" " "	"	"
7/28	Sow thistle	Wilkin County	120	2, 4-D	240 qts.	2 pints/acre	3 gal. water per a.	Aerial
		Boldingh (24)						

10. Summary of results (continue on reverse side, if necessary)

* Spot treatment of small spurge patches scattered over approximately 330 acres within 17 tracts. Most of these patches have been treated in prior years. Those that were solid stands still have scattered individual plants that persist but with reduced density. Eleven total acres were actually spot treated with Tordon.

File

PLANNING AND ACCOMPLISHMENT NARRATIVE
WETLAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 294
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

July 1, 1972 to June 30, 1973

PERMANENT PERSONNEL

Marvin Mansfield - Wetland Manager
Richard Nord - Assistant Wetland Manager
Richard Tolbers - Assistant Wetland Manager (Trainee)
Luther Melby - Maintenanceman
Wayne Enquist - Biological Technician
Richard Joarnt - Biological Technician*
Inga Mae Urke - Clerk-Steno

TEMPORARY PERSONNEL

Jerome Reger - Biological Aid
Thomas U'Ren - Biological Aid
George Heglund - Biological Aid
Lewis Young - Biological Aid
Gary Tischer - Biological Aid
Charles Vukovich - Biological Aid
Paula Schultz - Biological Aid

* Transferred to Benson WMD on 1/6/73

Approved, Regional Office

Signature

Title

Date

Submitted by:

Marvin Mansfield
Signature

Wetland Manager
Title

January 17, 1974
Date

File

PLANNING AND ACCOMPLISHMENT NARRATIVE
WETLAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 294
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

July 1, 1972 to June 30, 1973

PERMANENT PERSONNEL

Marvin Mansfield - Wetland Manager
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Jerome Reger - Biological Aid
Thomas U'Ren - Biological Aid
George Heglund - Biological Aid
Lewis Young - Biological Aid
Gary Tischler - Biological Aid
Charles Vukovich - Biological Aid
Paula Schultz - Biological Aid

* Transferred to Benson WMD on 1/8/73

Approved, Regional Office

Signature

Title

Date

Submitted by:

Marvin Mansfield
Signature

Wetland Manager
Title

January 17, 1974
Date

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Vegetation Control - - - - -	2
Building Sales - - - - -	2
Building Site Renovation - - - - -	2
Marsh Restoration - - - - -	2
Fence Construction - - - - -	2
Boundary Posting - - - - -	2
Nest Structures - - - - -	2
Tree Planting - - - - -	2

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Deviations + or - 25% From Planned Outputs)

Education (Students) - - - - -	2
Professional Services Rendered - - - - -	2
Hunting Resident Game - - - - -	2 & 3
Wildlife Observation - - - - -	3
Wildlife Appreciation - - - - -	3
Public Affairs - - - - -	3
Banding - - - - -	3
Threatened Species - - - - -	3 & 4
Special Recognition Species - - - - -	4
Waterfowl Maintenance - - - - -	4
Waterfowl Production - - - - -	4
Economic Benefits - - - - -	4

III. APPENDIX

(See Station Files)

PART I - REFUGE HIGHLIGHT STATEMENT

Heavy thunderstorms in July, 1972, dumped nearly 5 inches more than the normal rainfall on the eastern portion of this district. Several complaints were received from private landowners regarding excess water on easement lands. Many ditches, tiles and culverts were temporarily inadequate to accommodate the unusual amount of run-off.

Total precipitation for the fiscal year was 3 inches less than normal, but marsh levels remained adequate throughout the period. Precipitation for the first six months of 1973 was 5.5" below normal. June was the real culprit, being 2.5" short of the norm. Although temperatures were unusually cold in December, the remainder of the winter and spring was much warmer than normal. The snow pack was reduced to 3 inches by mid January and only a trace remained after March 2nd.

During the fiscal year, fee and easement acquisition slowed down considerably. About 716 acres (7 units) were traded to the State of Minnesota for lands added to Sherburne NWR. Considering the land lost in the exchange and the limited amount of acquired lands, the net acreage increase was only 126 fee acres and 115 easement wetland acres. We now manage 25,371 fee acres (176 units), and 9,647 easement acres.

This being the first summer after moving into the new headquarters site, much work was done around the place to get it in shape for our use. A 1,000 gallon gasoline tank and pump, an air conditioner, and two fiberglass overhead garage doors were installed. The parking area was graded to prevent water from draining into the office building. It was then covered with crushed rock. A stone-based office recognition sign was built near the front approach. A concrete slab was poured at the south entrance of the storage building. The building was also wired for overhead lights, and a seed storage bin was built inside. A flagpole was erected in front of the office.

Using our equipment and manpower, we seeded down 634 acres of cropland on 19 units. A legume-grass mix (DNC) was seeded on 443 acres, while 191 acres were seeded to native grasses. No Cooperative Farming Agreements were used for any of the seeding.

A total of 484 acres of thistles were mowed on 33 units. Six of these (136 acres) were mowed under contract, the rest was done by the Bureau. In addition, almost 10.5 miles of road shoulders were mowed (by contract) for snow control. Seventeen units were spot treated with Tordon beads or pellets for leafy spurge control. The area of these spots totaled about 23 acres. Approximately 120 acres of sow thistle, 30 acres of Canada thistle and 20 acres of leafy spurge were aerial sprayed during this fiscal year.

Forty-nine buildings (on eight tracts) were put up for bid sale in April, 1973. All but three were sold, with total receipts amounting to \$4,424.46.

An operator/dozer was contracted to complete the renovation of six building sites. Building foundations, farm dumps, well pits, and piles of old fence posts and wire (removed from the fields in prior years) were covered. A sizeable abandoned township dump on one WPA was also covered. A hazardous underground fuel storage tank was filled, and 3/4 mile of interior fence was removed.

Eight ditches and two tile lines were plugged, and two spillways were raised, resulting in the restoration of about 19.4 acres of drained marshes. Two miles of barbed wire fence was constructed which included six boundary fence projects and five parking lots.

Regular signs were installed on nearly 29 miles of boundary on 24 units, while 50 miles of closed area boundaries were checked and necessary signs replaced. Seven floating goose nesting platforms were built and placed on several local WPA's. Two of these brought off goose broods.

On May 11, 1973, over 2,600 ash, maple, pine, cedar, spruce and crab apple seedlings were planted on the Townsend WPA as cooperative shelter-belt program with the Soil Conservation Service. They furnished the seedlings, one man and the planter, and the Bureau furnished the site, one man and a tractor to pull the planter.

PART II - REFUGE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following is a discussion of output elements that deviated + or - 25% between the planned and accomplished units during FY 1973.

EDUCATION (STUDENTS) - Planned 900 activity hours, but only 165 were recorded, resulting in an 81% deficit. Whether this deficit is real or not is not known, as many of the local schools are aware that most WPA's are available for environmental classroom studies. However, the degree to which the schools use the WPA's for this purpose is not known, as an effective reporting or recording system for such use has not yet been developed. The 165 activity hours recorded as accomplished were only those where a Bureau employee was involved with the classes in the field.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RENDERED - Planned 45 activity hours but only 8 were recorded, resulting in an 82% deficit. Without promoting this service, it was anticipated that requests would be generated from at least one of the four major colleges during the year. However, this demand did not materialize.

HUNTING RESIDENT GAME - Of the 13,500 activity hours planned, only 2,643 were accomplished, which resulted in a 28% deficit. The demand

was lower than expected for pheasant hunting, which is the main activity in this category. Low pheasant populations caused the state to close the season locally during the two previous years. Pheasant populations had increased to some extent in localized areas by the fall of 1972, but not enough to attract hunters in numbers large enough to prevent the deficit.

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION - A 73% deficit occurred between the 660 activity hours planned and the 177 recorded. It is difficult to census this type of use on 175 units scattered over four counties. Also, it is entirely possible that the objective level is too high. A close look will be taken to see if the objective should be lowered.

WILDLIFE APPRECIATION - A 55% deficit occurred between the 2,640 activity hours planned and the 1,167 recorded. The explanation of this deviation is the same as the preceding category.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS -

	<u>PLANNED</u>	<u>ACCOMPLISHED</u>
Radio Programs	12	3
TV Programs	2	1
Newspaper Articles	12	3
Other Articles	0	1
Total Programs	<u>26</u>	<u>8</u>

Initially we planned 26 programs or news articles, but only 8 were accomplished. This deficit of 69% is the result of planning too many programs and it is not practical to reach the present objectives. These objectives will soon be revised to make them more realistic.

BANDING - A 100% deficit regarding the one and only planned banding program occurred this year. This occurred because the new banding permit and leg bands were not received until after the planned banding period was over. A dove banding program was, however, initiated during FY 1974.

THREATENED SPECIES - An estimated one thousand prairie chicken use-days were accomplished, however, this was an 80% deficit from the 5,000 planned use-days. It is believed now that the 5,000 use-day figure is excessive, and it will have to be reduced to a more realistic level.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION SPECIES - Over 3,700,000 use-days were planned, however, only just over 1,877,000 use-days were recorded for the year. This was a 49% deficit. The planned figure had been based on a rough estimate without supporting census data. Weekly wildlife counts implemented for the first time during this fiscal year provides some data to aid in estimating the use-days. Planned use-days for groups such as grebes, gulls and herons were moderately over-estimated. Terns were grossly over-estimated by about 800,000 use-days, while shorebirds were over-planned by 503,000 use-days. However, this group can fluctuate enormously from year to year, depending on marsh water levels and the

availability of mud flats. The summer and fall of 1972 were wet, marshes were high, and thus the expected shorebird use was reduced.

WATERFOWL MAINTENANCE - A 28% deficit from the planned 3,263,000 use-days occurred during this fiscal year. Through the implementation of a weekly census, it was determined that only 2,326,650 waterfowl use-days did occur. The planning figure was a rough estimate without supporting data, and we believe the accomplished figure for FY 1973 is more reliable.

WATERFOWL PRODUCTION - Planned waterfowl production was 16,050 birds. About 6,010 was the reported production accomplishment, however, this figure was based on pair counts and weekly observations on fee owned lands only. Easement wetlands were inadvertently overlooked in the reported accomplishment. Thus, if the 1,300 birds estimated to have been produced on the easement lands were added, the total production would have been reported as 10,810 birds. This addition reduces the deviation between planned and accomplished from 62% to 32%. The remaining 32% deviation is the result of a high planned production figure and low production resulting from a low breeding population.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS - MOWING AND GRAZING - Long time grazing permittees were expected to return about \$320.00 in benefits during this fiscal year. The grazing program was in the process of being phased out during the period, resulting in only \$151.00 received. All these permits have since been terminated and none are planned for the future.

PART III - APPENDIX

See station files.